



DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 13

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MARCH 2, 2006 PAUAHI COMMUNITY CENTER

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Matusow at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Brawley, Lynne Matusow, Carl Middleton, Dolores Mollring, Karl Rhoads, Tom Smyth, Burton White.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Alvin Au, Stanford Yuen.

GUESTS: Board of Water Supply: Kawehi Yim, Kevin Ihu, Francis Fung. Jessica McDunn (Hawaii Pacific University), Martin Nakasone (M & E Pacific), Senator Gordon Trimble, Representative Bev Harbin, Suzanne Berg (Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland's Office), Lt. Robert Green (HPD), James Kellog, James Hardway (Governor's Office), Collin Wong, Al Canopin (Councilmember Rod Tam's Office), Virginia Young, Bill Brennan (Mayor's Office), Ed Korybski (Culture and Arts District), Dean Chu (Neighborhood Commission Office staff).

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS: The members introduced themselves.

REPORTS AND CONCERNS:

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT - No representative was present. It was believed the station is responding to storm related emergencies.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chair Matusow noted that Lt. Green has received a promotion to captain and will be transferring to District 7, East Honolulu. Also, in this area, District 1, Capt. Nishimura is being replaced by Capt. Tom Grossi, who has been an officer, sergeant and lieutenant, Major Randy Macadangdang is the new district commander, and Assistant Chief Michael Tucker, who was Major of District 1, attended Board meetings, and worked with the community on the Weed and Seed expansion, will be in charge of Central Command which includes Central Honolulu, Kalihi, Waikiki and East Honolulu Districts. The transfers are effective March 19.

Lt. Green reported statistics for January compared to December, included the following: 4/2 robbery, 17/10 burglary, 45/43 unauthorized entry into motor vehicles, 12/54 auto thefts, 6/5 aggravated assaults, 25/22 simple assaults, 156/125 motor vehicle collisions, 12/8 DUI, 3/4 sex assaults, 8/10 family offenses, 24/13 drug offenses, 0/1 graffiti.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Graffiti is an islandwide problem and persons who spot it in progress should call police to report and provide as much information as possible, which can help in the making of arrests.
2. Police can take action against homeless persons sleeping in doorways only if the property owner makes a complaint either on the spot or provides police with prior notice that no one is allowed to be on their property during certain hours.
3. Officers take action with drug problems when they observe it occurring.
4. Concern was expressed that a canopy at a flower shop on Maunakea Street is creating a hazard to pedestrians. It was noted that it is believed there is an ordinance that applies to this situation.
5. Bicycles without licenses or stolen, can be confiscated by police; who can even cut locks to remove them from parking meters, etc. The Fourth Watch monitors such violations.



6. Broken windows have been spotted in various areas, and one Hawaii Pacific University baseball player has been caught in the act. Follow up will be done with Jessica McDunn, from Hawaii Pacific University.
7. Follow up will be done about a business at Bethel and Pauahi streets that is parking its mopeds on the sidewalk by the curb.
8. Community resource officers are being restored at the district stations.
9. Regarding problems at bars, police can address noise problems, but liquor law violations are under the jurisdiction of the Liquor Commission.

Lt. Green was thanked for attending the meeting.

Smyth arrived at 7:03 p.m.

CITIZENS PATROL - Mollring reported they have not walked the past two weeks due to the rain. She displayed the front page from the Downtown Planet showing Patrol members.

HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY – Jessica McDunn, from Hawaii Pacific University, reported the following:

1. Spring Semester is January 23 – May 12, with spring break March 27 – 31.
2. HPU accounting and finance professor Dr. John Karbens has been nominated for the 2006 American Institute of CPAs Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Award after earning the 2005 Achievement in Accounting Education Award from the Hawaii Society of CPAs.
3. There have not been any unusual security incidents recently. There continue to be problems with occasional bicycle thefts at the Beretania Street bike rack, and problems sometimes with people who use the shuttle stop benches to sleep.
4. Kooalu Writing Workshops with New Zealand Maori author Robert Sullivan, 8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., March 4, HPU Hawaii Loa Campus.
5. HPU Vocal International Vocal Ensemble, Moonlit Serenade fundraising concert for trip to Austria to commemorate Mozart's birth, 7:00 p.m., March 17, First Presbyterian Church on Keeaumoku Street.
6. HPU Jazz Ensemble "Six O'Clock Band" performs for the Hawaii Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, April 4, Hawaii Theatre.
7. Weekend MBA Information Session, 5:30 p.m.; March 9, Master of Education in Secondary Education Reception, 6:00 p.m.; March 16, MA in Teaching English as a Second Language, 5:30 p.m., March 22; MA in Diplomacy and Military Studies, 5:30 p.m., March 30. Interested persons may call 544-1135 for more information.
8. HPU is holding auditions for anyone in the community interested in participating in band and/or orchestra. Auditions are open to HPU students as well as community members. 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., March 11, Central Middle School, Building D, band room.

Questions answers and comments followed:

1. McDunn will follow up with police on their catching a member of the baseball team breaking windows.
2. McDunn will follow up to remind students not to park mopeds on the Ft. Street Mall's Portuguese mosaic tile walkway.

McDunn was thanked for attending the meeting.

HONOLULU CULTURE AND ARTS DISTRICT – Ed Korybski reported the following:

1. Maoli Arts Month is March 3 – April 2, celebrating Native Hawaiian arts, artists, and cultural practitioners.
2. Their events are publicized in the Honolulu Advertiser's TGIF section.
3. Work is being done on seeking federal funds for the Preserve America's Neighborhoods program.

Korybski was thanked for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS:

COUNCILMEMBER ROD TAM – Al Canopin, from Councilmember Tam's Office, distributed the monthly report and highlighted/added the following:

1. There are no plans at this time for the City to sell any of its affordable housing units.
2. The grass at Aala and Smith-Beretania parks is mowed once a week.
3. A request was received to install a trash container at TheBus stop on River Street.
3. Police had monitored College Walk and Sun Yat Sen Mall in response to complaints about gambling, but found no illegal activity.
4. Regarding a concern brought up at last month's meeting about a collapsing building later determined to be at 1165 Maunakea Street, a Request for Investigative Service, was submitted to the Administration, no response has been received yet. Follow up is being done with the complainant.
5. A request was made to remove a metal barrier at Pele Street Mini Park fronting the H-1 wall and to address problems with rubbish accumulation between the barrier and the wall. The ownership of the barrier is still being researched, but may be owned by the State Department of Transportation.
6. There is a Community Development Block Grant proposal of \$880,000 for development of a Downtown restroom facility. Specifics on the project are being sought from the Administration.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Bill 68, relating to moped parking, passed third reading by the Council and was signed in to law by the Mayor.
2. Smyth took issue with Councilmember Tam's comments in the written report relating to the sale of the Kukui Gardens affordable housing project "...any proposal to eliminate the affordable rentals would be unconscionable and irresponsible act by greedy investors and developers..." Smyth noted that the project was developed by private developers with full knowledge by government officials that the developer could sell the project after 20 years to recover development costs.
3. Smyth also took issue with provisions of Bill 74, relating to illegal parking, that would make it illegal for someone to remove parts from his own vehicle.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

1. Councilmember Tam was thanked for his work on helping make the Pele Street Mini Park, which opened two weeks ago, become a reality.
2. It was suggested that the residential and commercial development project on the Block J property, bounded by Beretania Street, Pali Highway, Queen Emma Street, and Kukui Street, be an affordable housing project.

SENATOR GORDON TRIMBLE – Senator Trimble reported the following:

1. In his written report he addresses “The Dismantling of State Government” noting that “Now we are experiencing a systematic dismantling of state government by sore losers.” He notes that bills have been introduced to “...lessen the Governor’s control to supervise and administer State agencies.”
2. Scheduling of committee meetings has been such that many committees do not have a quorum of members present.
3. Legislation to allow back up beepers on vehicles to be disconnected between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. if the vehicle is under the direction of a responsible person, has passed the Senate. Last year this legislation passed the Senate, but died in the House.
4. Legislation on red light cameras to catch drivers who run red lights, has passed the House Transportation Committee, but has not been heard in the House Judiciary Committee. Community support of this legislation is needed to help it progress.

Comments pro and con followed.

Senator Trimble was thanked for attending the meeting.

SENATOR SUZANNE CHUN OAKLAND – Suzanne Berg, from Senator Chun Oakland’s Office, distributed various informational materials, including a set of copies of bills that are still alive.

Questions, answers and comments followed.

Chair Matusow noted her dissatisfaction on the Senator’s vote against requiring the legislature to follow the Sunshine Law.

Berg was thanked for attending the meeting.

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE – James Hardway, representing the Governor’s Office, reported the following:

1. The legislature’s first decking of bills deadline is this Friday.
2. The economy is good, the State’s unemployment rate is now 2.4 percent.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

Follow up will be done on the way the unemployment rate was calculated years ago which was adjusted to account for the way it is calculated today so comparisons are accurate.

Hardway was thanked for attending the meeting.

REPRESENTATIVE BEV HARBIN – Representative Harbin reported the following:

1. Work is being done on finding a way to advance the red light cameras legislation. Representative Souki and Senator Inouye support the legislation, while Senator Kim opposes it. Community support is needed to help the legislation advance. Mollring will follow up with Representative Harbin.
2. You can follow the status of bills on her website, repbevharbin.com.
3. House Bill 591, relating to expanding the nuisance abatement law from drug related matters to include liquor law violations, did not get a hearing. The companion Senate Bill 700 passed in 2005 and is law.

Representative Harbin was thanked for attending the meeting.

MAYOR'S OFFICE – Bill Brennan, representing the Mayor's Office, reported the Civil Defense Operating Center has been activated to deal with recent flooding problems. He apologized for not having a report on questions from last month's meeting.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. It is legal for street sweeping machines to be driven the wrong way on streets when cleaning the streets.
2. Thanks were extended for the filling in of a hole in Smith-Beretania Park reported at last month's meeting.
3. Work is being done by the Department of Parks and Recreation on a blessing ceremony for the newly opened Pele Street Mini Park.
4. Follow up will be done on repairing lights in the Chinatown Gateway Park water feature. The lack of lights at night creates a hazard as pedestrians cannot see where the sidewalk ends and the water feature begins.

Brennan was thanked for attending the meeting.

PUBLIC CONCERNS:

CLOSING OF PARKING LOT – It was noted the parking lot across from Block J has closed and will contribute to the shortage of parking in the Downtown/Chinatown area.

ABANDONED AND DAMAGED VEHICLE IN SAFEWAY STORE PARKING LOT – Chair Matusow noted receipt of letters from a resident frustrated with the lack of attention store management has paid to removal of an abandoned and damaged vehicle, requested Board assistance on this matter. The Board could not become involved in this matter as it was between two private parties.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

UPDATE ON THE ALOHA TOWER DRIVE/NIMITZ HIGHWAY WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – Kawehi Yim, from the Board of Water Supply (BWS), reported the project involves the installation of a new water main along Nimitz Highway between Alakea and Richards streets, makai along Richards to Aloha Tower Drive, and along Aloha Tower Drive to Bishop Street, some 1700 feet. A public informational meeting has been held. State Department of Health approval has been received to do night work, which will be done on the Nimitz Highway and Aloha Tower Drive segments only, from 9:00 p.m. – 5:00 a.m., Sunday through Thursday. A 24-hour hotline, 271-4731, has been established. The Notice to Proceed has been given to the contractor who is expected to start construction later this month. The contractor is obtaining additional permits and is seeking a storage yard, but may have to use space on the Board of Water Supply's Beretania Street property. Work will begin on the Nimitz Highway section first, with an open trench two to three feet wide and four to five feet deep. The Richards Street segment will follow, with the Aloha Tower Drive segment last.

Questions, answers and comments followed:

1. Smyth thanked BWS, and the State Department of Transportation for the public informational meeting and addressing concerns from Harbor Square residents about the project, including any possible loss of water service during the project.
2. BWS expects the contractor to complete the project ahead of schedule.
3. Detect a Leak Week is March 5 – 11. An informational flyer and toilet tank leak detection tablets were made available. Additional dye tablets are available at the BWS Beretania Street offices, satellite city halls, and hardware stores – excluding Home Depot.

Yim and other BWS representatives were thanked for attending the meeting.

Chair Matusow deferred the order of the agenda to take a New Business item at this time. There were no objections.

NEW BUSINESS:

\$556,000 FOR HOTEL STREET FAÇADE RENOVATION, NUUANU TO SMITH – Ed Korybski reported he has met with property owners on a proposal to use Community Development Block Grant funding on a project to renovate the façade of buildings along this section of Hotel Street. The three property owners supported the project which would require them to fund the renovation of three properties including Club Hubba Hubba, and Paradise Lost. Support of a bill in the legislature was requested. Smyth provided additional information on the bill and said that funding could be via the bill or a grant in aid. **Mollring moved and Smyth seconded that the Board supports the Hotel Street façade renovation. The motion carried, 6-0-1.** Middleton abstained.

The order of the agenda resumed.

CITY BILL 68 RELATING TO MOPED PARKING, NEED TO NAME DESIGNATED AREAS IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA (INCLUDING FT. STREET MALL ENVIRONS) WHERE MOPEDS CAN PARK AND REQUEST THE CITY TO EXPEDITE OBTAINING DECALS WHICH INDICATE MOPED PARKING IS PERMITTED IN THE DESIGNATED AREAS – Mollring reported testifying before the City Council on Bill 68 where Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) supported the bill, while the Honolulu Police Department and City Department of Transportation Services (DTS) opposed it. Mollring noted that DTS feels it is: a) the responsibility of HPU and businesses to provide parking spaces, b) may restrict use of bicycle racks to bicycles only, c) does not want to allow mopeds to be attached to parking meters, and d) opposed development of moped parking spaces in Kamalii Park. She also noted that DTS is responsible for designing the decals, and was concerned that it intentionally could delay work on it. McDunn offered HPU's assistance in designing the decal. Smyth noted the availability of free moped parking off of Richards Street and at the State Capitol.

Chair Matusow noted the Mayor signed this bill into law at the same time he signed property tax relief bills. Discussion followed, and the consensus was to send a letter to the Mayor requesting design of the decal be expedited.

STATUS OF RED LIGHT CAMERA LEGISLATION – Previously addressed by elected officials.

REDUCING EMERGENCY VEHICLE SIREN NOISE AND EARLY MORNING GARBAGE TRUCK PICKUPS – Rhoads distributed copies of City ordinances relating to emergency vehicles' use of lights and sirens, and speed restrictions, with draft revisions to provide exemptions from requirements to not require use of lights and sirens between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. **Rhoads moved and Mollring seconded to ask the City Council to change the law to not require emergency vehicles to use lights and sirens between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.**

Discussion, pro and con followed, and included safety and liability concerns if lights and sirens are not used and to request input the Fire Department at the April meeting for input on this matter, and that the changes would make legal the discretion that is already being used on whether or not to use lights and sirens. **Rhoads withdrew the motion, Mollring withdrew the second.**

NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:

HOUSE BILL 591, HD-1, WHICH EXPANDS AUTHORITY OF THE NUISANCE ABATEMENT UNIT IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO ALL NUISANCES UNDER PENAL CODE, NOT JUST DRUG NUISANCES – Previously addressed by elected officials.

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THE LEGISLATURE TO DESIGNATE A HONOLULU HISTORIC WATERFRONT DISTRICT FROM NUUANU TO KEWALO BASIN AND REQUIRE THE APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY-BASED MASTER PLANNING PROCESS – Rhoads reported the Ala Moana – Kakaako Neighborhood Board discussed this item at their meeting earlier this week and took no action. Smyth provided information on the process for designation of an historic district, and noted it can be done by the Governor via an executive order. It was noted

this area is not historic, it is a former landfill, and the resolution may be an effort to stop the State Hawaii Community Development Authority from developing the Kakaako Makai area. The consensus was to wait and see what action, if any, the Ala Moana – Kakaako Neighborhood Board takes on this matter.

Middleton left during the above portion of the meeting, 8:45 p.m.

OAHU METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION OAHU REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2006 THRU FISCAL YEAR 2008: White reported the deadline for submission of comments is March 15.

S12, SCHEDULED FOR DELETION, UPGRADING GUARDRAILS AND SHOULDER IMPROVEMENTS, H-1, MIDDLE STREET TO PUNCHBOWL AREA – White moved and Rhoads seconded to support the deletion of this project. Discussion followed where it was noted S12 is the project identification number, there was no funding for the project, and deletion was recommended for deletion by the State Department of Transportation. **The motion carried unanimously.**

S73, NEW PROJECT, H-1 KINAU OFF-RAMP IMPROVEMENTS NEAR QUEENS MEDICAL CENTER, CONSTRUCTION OF RIGHT-TURN LANE FROM KINAU OFF-RAMP TO PROVIDE DIRECT ACCESS TO LUSITANA, \$6 MILLION – White moved and Mollring seconded to support this project. The motion carried unanimously.

NAMING OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE FOR CHINATOWN SUMMIT, APRIL 12, AND SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS – Chair Matusow reported the summit is being called by the Mayor to bring various interested parties together. **Mollring moved and Rhoads seconded that the Board appoint Matusow, Yuen, White, and Smyth as members, with Rhoads as alternate. The committee is authorized to attend the summit, subsequent meetings, comments at the summit and subsequent meetings, and report back to the Board. The motion carried unanimously.**

BOARD MEMBER ACTIONS: Chair Matusow reported that this matter relates at this time to actions, or non actions by a Board member that are not in the best interests of this Board's constituents and hampering this Board's ability to take action. Smyth provided information on provisions, including proposed revisions, to the Neighborhood Plan, that a) relate to members' representing their constituents; b) standards of conduct, c) the oath-of-office, and d) order and decorum, that relate to these actions or non-actions. Discussion followed. There was no Board action at this time. Concern was expressed about Board members continuously missing meetings, and about one Board member who has abstained from voting on all items for four months.

APPROVAL OF NEWSLETTER COPY – Chair Matusow reported that copies of the draft newsletter were previously distributed to members for their review. Members submitted revisions which will be incorporated to the draft and submitted to the Neighborhood Commission Office for printing. **Mollring moved and Rhoads seconded to approve the draft. The motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2006 REGULAR MEETING: The following correction was made:

Page 1, under Guests, it should read "...Officer Killum (HPD)..."

Rhoads moved and Mollring seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CHAIR'S REPORT:

STREET CLOSURES - Chair Matusow reported on March 17, the St. Patrick's Day Block Party, will close Nuuanu Avenue, between King Street and Nimitz Highway; Merchant Street, between Nuuanu Avenue and Bethel Street; and Marin Lane; from 5:30 – 11:00 p.m.

LIQUOR LICENSES – Chair Matusow reported the Board has received notice of the following: a) Special General License from Events International, Aloha Tower, March 17, b) JS Market, Retail General, 68-A North Hotel Street, transfer of capital stock, c) O'Tooles Irish Pub, requesting approval to extend its licensed premises into the adjoining alley and Marin Street on Friday, March 17, until 11:00 p.m., The public hearing was held earlier today. Chair Matusow will verify with HPD that the music stops at 10:00 p.m.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA – Chair Matusow reported Board review of items from the City budget will be on the April agenda as will the May 14 triathlon, Chinatown district designation, and Downtown transit routes. Rhoads reported receipt of requests to name the Pele Street Mini Park after the late Caesar and Eleanor Gomes who owned the property until it was condemned by the State for the H -1.

LETTER FROM THE E-BUS COALITION – Chair Matusow noted receipt of a letter from the E-Bus Coalition on their efforts to have the E-Bus Route restored.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mollring reported for the month of December, the Operating Account balance was \$1284.57, the Publicity Account balance was \$1440.00 and the Refreshment Account balance was \$120.00.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION – Chair Matusow reported Joan Manke, Acting Executive Secretary, is reviewing the draft revisions to the Neighborhood Plan. Also, two new vacancies on the Neighborhood Commission have opened with the resignations of Chair Pam Witty Oakland and Vice Chair Mike Ellis. No specifics on the reasons for the resignations were available at this time.

STATE AFFAIRS – Smyth reported bills of interest include: a) House Bill 2404, relating to members of boards and commissions that would base quorum on the number of filled seats, rather than the total number of seats, was held in committee, b) two bills to give the State Office of Information Practices more authority, including the ability to go to court to enforce its rulings, were not heard in committee, c) a bill to allow the use of certified kitchens by persons operating feeding programs for the homeless was deferred, d) a bill relating to requiring retrofitting of fire sprinkler systems in condominiums has not progressed.

CITY AFFAIRS – Chair Matusow reported the following:

1. Noted receipt of copy of a letter from the Pearl City Neighborhood Board to the Department of Transportation Services, requesting more advance notice of changes to TheBus schedule.
2. Correspondence has been received announcing construction of ADA curb ramps in the Downtown/Chinatown area on Kukui Street at River, Maunakea and Nuuanu; at Pauahi and Nuuanu; on Merchant at Bethel, Bishop, Alakea, and Richards; on Queen at Alakea, Richards and Mililani; and on Halekauwila at Mililani.
3. Correspondence from Ku Walu, relating to the mass transit project, was received and referred to White.

WEED AND SEED – Rhoads reported the National Night Out, a walk by citizens patrols and neighborhood security watches, etc., is scheduled for the first Tuesday in August.

TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL INVESTIGATION – Smyth reported community-scoping meetings on the mass transit project have been held. Routes in the Kapolei/Ewa area are widely separated. He is working on a map of the routes through the Downtown area and will bring them to the next Board meeting. They include: elevated along Beretania Street, at-grade along Queen Street, at-grade along Hotel Street going underground at Richards Street and returning to at-grade at Alapai Street.

There were no other committee reports.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

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Submitted by,

Dean Chu
Neighborhood Assistant

Minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting.